What is claimed is:

1. A system for providing locally generated prompts/announcements in a telecommunications network, the system comprising

a centralized service for storing a plurality of prompt/announcement files, said plurality including various types of files;

a telecommunications device located in close proximity to the user, said telecommunications device for downloading predetermined files from said plurality of files; and

at least one communication device for interacting with said telecommunications device and selecting the predetermined ones of said files to be downloaded.

2. The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one communication device comprises a telephone with a keypad for selecting prompt/announcement files.

3. The system as defined in claim 2 wherein the selected prompt/announcement files comprise voice files.

4. The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one communication device comprises a computer with a keyboard for selecting prompt/announcement files.

5. The system as defined in claim 4 wherein the selected files are chosen from a group consisting of text files, video files and multimedia files.

6. The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one communication device comprises

a telephone with a keypad for selecting a first subset of files; and

a computer with a keyboard for selecting a second subset of files.

7. The system as defined in claim 6 wherein the first subset of files comprises voice files and the second subset of files comprises files chosen from a group consisting of text files, video files and multimedia files.

8

8. The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the network comprises an HFC network and the telecommunications device comprises a communications gateway.

9. A method of providing client-side prompt/announcement files for use by a subscriber on a local telecommunications device from a plurality of prompt/announcement files stored on a centralized server, the method comprising the steps of:

a) determining subscriber characteristics;

b) determining the type of user entry device;

c) downloading a subset of prompt/announcement files from the centralized server to the local telecommunications device based upon the determined subscriber characteristics and the type of user entry device.

10. The method as defined in claim 9 wherein in performing step a), the subscriber characteristics include language, location and subscribed-to telecommunication services.

11. The method as defined in claim 9 wherein in performing step b), the user entry device comprises a telephone with a keypad and in performing step c), voice files are downloaded.

12. The method as defined in claim 9 wherein in performing step b), the user entry device comprises a computer with a keyboard and in performing step c), the files are chosen from a group consisting of text files, video files and multimedia files are downloaded.